

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to introduce claims published in the International Preliminary Examination Report, to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-16 and 18-20 and to replace the phrase "characterised in that" with "wherein" in claims 1-20.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

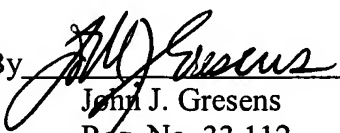
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 5 October 2004

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:hjm